REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Applicant has carefully reviewed the contents of the Office Action mailed December 11, 2008 (hereinafter Action). Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 24, 26-44, 46-48, 50, 51, 54-59, and 62-66 are currently pending with claims 54-59 remaining withdrawn. Claims 3-7, 9-13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 25, 45, 52, 53, 60 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 49, and 61 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 46, 62, and 63 are the independent claims.

Background

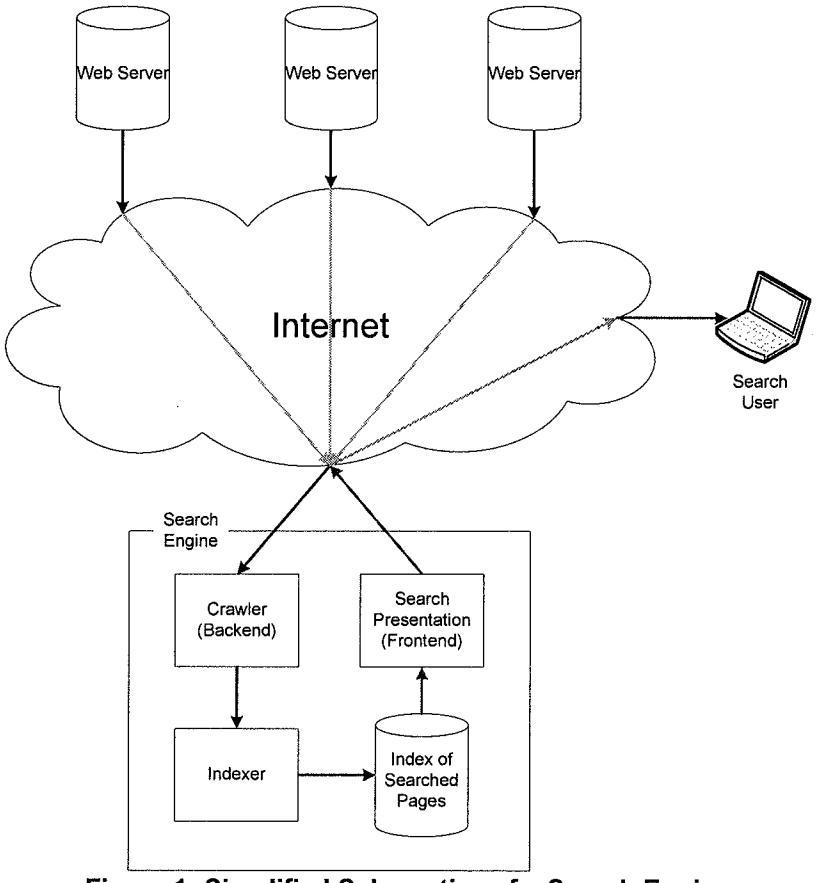

Figure 1: Simplified Schematics of a Search Engine

The simplified schematics of a proper search engine (see figure 1 above) shows that the main elements of a search engine are the "crawler" (or "harvester") that traverses the Internet looking for web pages to index, the "indexer" that receives the pages from the crawler and in some form stores the relevant information in an "index," and the "search presentation" that processes the user's input (i.e., queries), searches the index and presents the results to the user.

The first principle that has to be fulfilled to make a search engine efficient is that it must separate a web page into entities, "words," that can be searched for. The whole principle behind search engines is that they provide fast information about which web pages contain specific "words" or "phrases." Thus, every known search engine has a form of "parser" that extracts the relevant "words" in the harvested web pages.

The second principle that has to be fulfilled to make a search engine efficient is that the "words" must be "indexed" in some form, i.e. stored in a way that makes retrieval of information in web pages containing specific "words" or "phrases" fast, which again means that every known search engine does this in one way or another.

The third principle that has to be fulfilled to make a search engine efficient is that it must present the results from the retrieval of (i.e. search for) web pages containing specific "words" or "phrases" in some way. To help the user—as search engines generally return an overwhelming number of results for searches—most search engines perform some form of sorting of the found web pages in an attempt to present them in some order that hopefully presents the most relevant web pages first. This process is often called "page ranking" and is a discipline in and of it self. A more effective page ranking mechanism/algorithm—dubbed "Page Rank®"[1]—is what differentiated Google from the other search engines at the time and allowed Google to gain its current market position, thus proving that even seemingly small innovations may have a profound effect.

[1] Named after Larry Page, one of the original founders of Google.

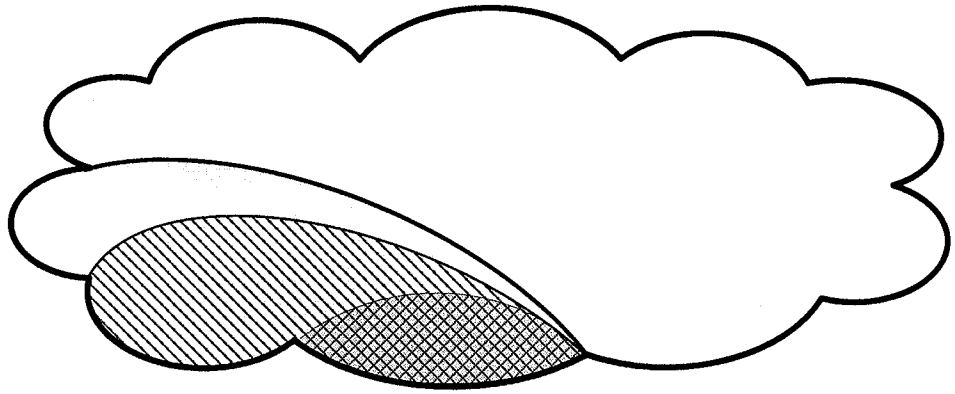

Figure 2: Different Approaches to Subject Specific Searches

As general search engines have no context for the search, they have to apply general rules to the search taking into account the normal search patterns of users, how "popular" the searched pages are, the pattern of words in the page compared to the "words" searched for, etc. This means that the general search engines neither provide effective reduction in the number of results nor provide effective presentation of results for specialized searches within a narrow context like "law" or "medicine." The result as illustrated above is that a query will result in an overwhelming amount of results, most of which will be irrelevant to the user in the user's context.

Search engines can vary in their approach to subject specificity by using different approaches to return the results wanted by the user. The traditional search engines like Google, MSN and Yahoo basically set out to index each and every page on the Internet, no matter how trivial or relevant. Hammer, detailed below, describes a search engine that reduces the amount of data sent to the search engine proper by filtering irrelevant pages out by using keywords. This process reduces the number of results, but is still not very subject specific as it is almost impossible

to specify keywords alone that take into account the different meanings and interpretations of words.

An exemplary embodiment of the current invention, the Subject Specific Search Engine, uses more sophisticated methods to reduce the number of results, which makes it easier for the users to find the relevant information within a given context.

Referenced Documents

Burrows

Examiner has cited U.S. Patent No. 6,021,409 to Burrows (*hereinafter* Burrows) as a referenced document. As mentioned above, it is necessary to separate a web page into "words" for indexing, as specified by Burrows (column 6, lines 56-67).

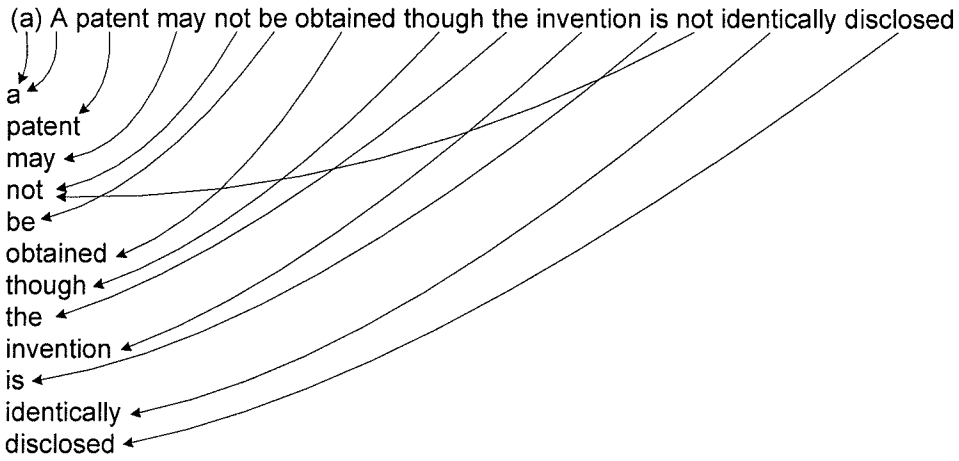

Figure 3: Separation into Words

As it would be virtually impossible to search for anything without separating the web pages into their individual words and as all current search facilities use a form of individual word representation to facilitate searches this fact is immaterial to a comparison to the SSSE invention.

In column 2, lines 50-60, Burrows describes a way to divide a web page into parts to ease the indexing process. The end result of this process is still indexing of the whole page, only by parsing the page in two or more separate passes instead of one. It does not indicate in any way that it can be used to *not* index a page and it is not obvious from reading this patent that such filtering could be performed or could be helpful for more specific searches.

Hammer

Examiner has cited Joachim Hammer & Jan Fiedler, *Using Mobile Crawlers to Search the Web Efficiently* (2000) (hereinafter Hammer) as a referenced document. The approach by Hammer is to minimize the amount of data transmitted by the crawler to the search engine proper. This was done at a time where transmission capacity was quite limited and where a search engine could easily consume all the capacity for smaller web sites.

One way of minimizing the amount of data transmitted for a subject specific search engine, is to eliminate pages that do not contain certain keywords (Hammer page 6 beginning of second column) and only transmit pages containing the keywords to the search engine.

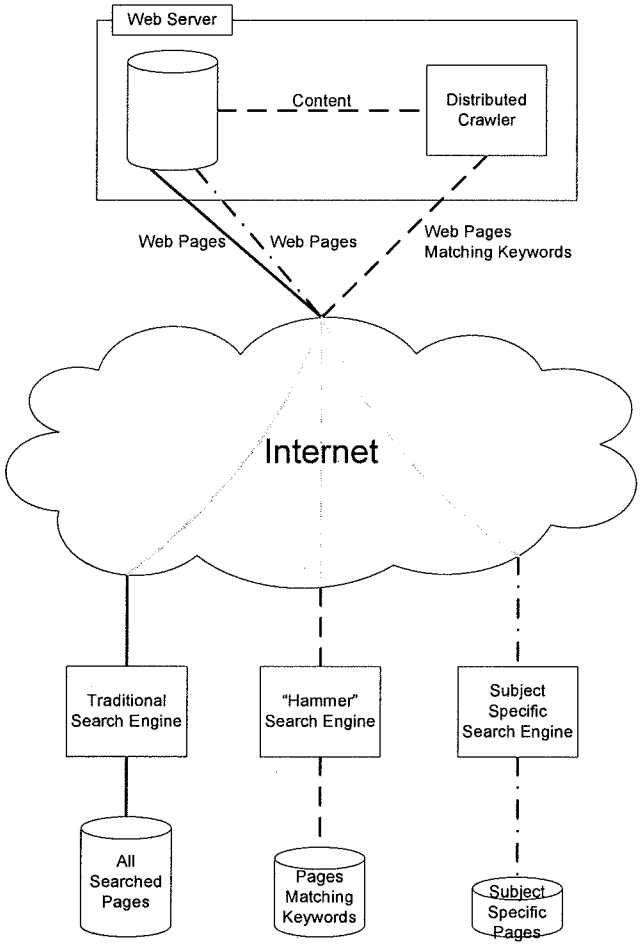

Figure 4: Different Types of Search Engines

The rationale for reducing the bandwidth is virtually gone today where many (if not most) Internet-connected people have more bandwidth at their disposal than many web sites had in year 2000. The suggested approach raises concerns though, as most web sites—for reasons of security, resource usage, and stability—would not permit a "foreign" program (i.e. the distributed crawler) on their servers,

With today's abundance of bandwidth and the ubiquity of the major search engines like Google, MSN and Yahoo, it would be futile to create a search engine based on the principles of Hammer.

The elimination done by Hammer comprises a simple keyword match that can easily be emulated on a traditional search engine by "tinkering" with the search terms as Gable would do, see below.

Let us for simplicity's sake assume that the relevant keywords used by Hammer are "`medicine`," "`hospital`," "`doctor`," and "`surgery`." A search for, say, "`kidney`" and "`stone`" in a Hammer-type search engine would return the crawled web sites that contain "`kidney`" and "`stone`" and any of the words "`medicine`," "`hospital`," "`doctor`," and "`surgery`." A similar result could be obtained from Google by the following search: "`(kidney stone) AND (medicine OR hospital OR doctor OR surgery)`," so from a search perspective Hammer does not provide anything special apart from the idea of using keywords to select specific web pages.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention, on the other hand, combines a semantic approach—using "keywords," "terms," and "expressions"—with a mathematical approach assigning weights to each "keyword," "term," and "expression" and requiring a certain threshold to be met in order for the page to be included in the index.

The approach of an embodiment of the present invention cannot be obtained from Google through a manual search query as:

1. the search string to include all the "keywords," "terms," and "expressions" in the filter, i.e. the semantic part, would be far to complex and long—even for an expert in Boolean algebra—to type into the search field (and likely the search field would be unable to contain that long a search string anyway)

2. no known search facility supports the mathematical part of assigning weights to the "keywords," "terms," and "expressions" and calculating values and comparing it to thresholds for each page.

Gable

Examiner has cited U.S. Patent No. 6,029,165 to Gable (hereinafter Gable) as a referenced document. Gable specifies a form of "meta-crawler" (a search facility that generates answers by querying other search facilities, e.g. search engines). Gable's meta-crawler differs from ordinary meta-crawlers by "assisting" the users by applying additional terms to the users' queries, thereby limiting the results returned by the queried search engines. The approach chosen by Gable to narrow the search field is very similar to the approach used by Hammer, where Gable queries the search engine and uses the search engine's query syntax to restrict the results instead of the approach used by Hammer where the data are harvested from the web-sites individually.

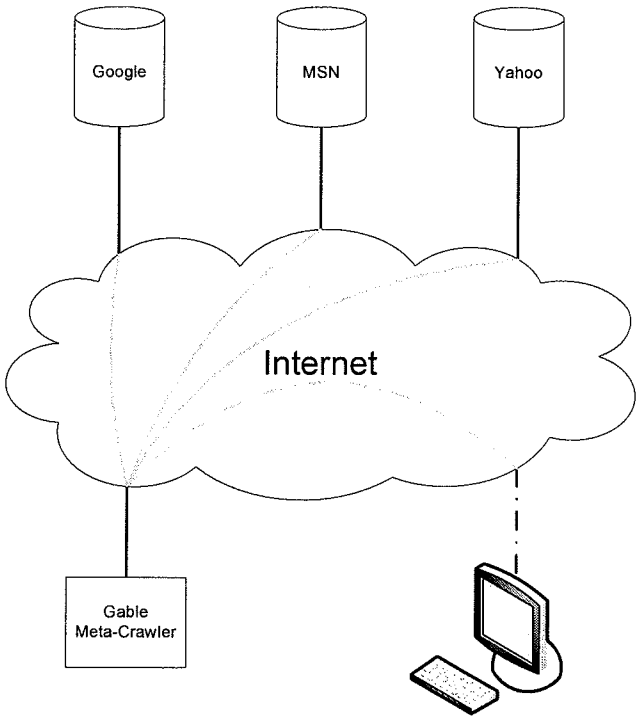

Figure 5: Gable's Meta-Crawler

Gable would be able to suggest that a subject specific search engine for medicine could be made by using the approach suggested for Hammer, i.e., by adding parentheses around the user's

search term and adding the terms "AND (medicine OR hospital OR doctor OR surgery)" and forward this search to e.g. Google, MSN and Yahoo.

Gable column 13, lines 10-21 says that the terms used in the lexicon can be refined (or "fine tuned") by gathering feedback from the users of the system. This does not constitute a second filtering, but is instead intended to improve the results of future searches within a "topic" by adjusting the whole system based on user feedback. Users might complain that the terms "AND (medicine OR hospital OR doctor OR surgery)" are too inclusive and suggest to change them into "AND (medicine OR hospital OR (medical NEAR doctor) OR surgery)" to remove pages containing the word "doctor" on its own as "doctor" could refer to people having received doctorates in disciplines other than medicine.

Due to the nature of Gable's search facility, it is not possible for searches to be better than searches the user could perform directly on the underlying search engines used by Gable's facility. If an underlying search engine does not support specific features necessary to extract the subject relevant results, Gable will not be able to improve on this, no matter how the queries are refined. It will, for example, not be possible to apply Boolean logic to a web site that does not support Boolean logic.

Conklin

Examiner has cited U.S. Patent No. 6,363,378 to Conklin et al. (hereinafter Conklin) as a referenced document. Conklin is not concerned with the workings of the search element of search facilities. Conklin is working only with the presentation part—more specifically the hierarchical ranking of the search results. They have invented a system for ranking search results where the results are clustered based on the perceived topics of the search query and the perceived topics of the search results.

They use ontology to order pages by topic. To create and maintain a database of ontology, they cluster words in the ontological database around themes and uses the distance (depth) in the ontological database to assist in ranking the results.

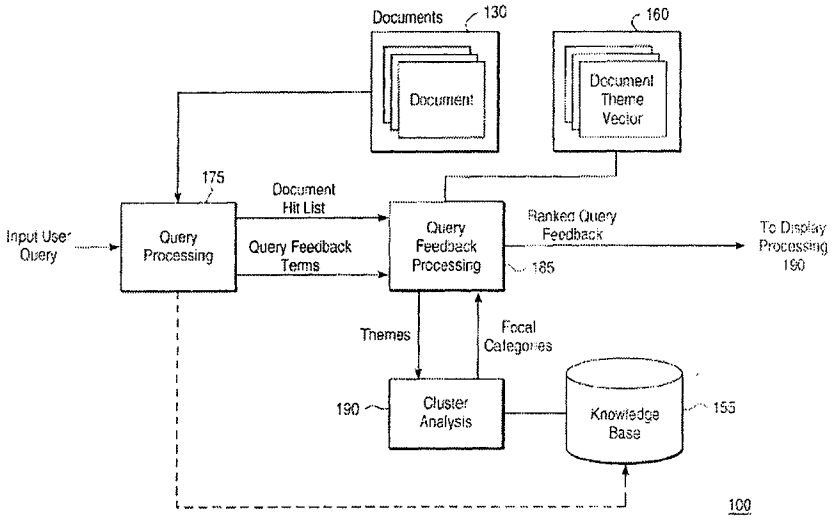

Figure 6 Conklin computer generating feedback

Conklin deals with a system to assist a user in re-formatting an existing query. Conklin does not present website content to a user for approval or disapproval. Conklin's query feedback is not done by the user it is done by the system as can be clearly seen in figure 6 and as stated in Conklin on col. 3 ll. 5-24:

> The information retrieval system processes the queries to identify a document hit list related to the query, and to *generate query feedback terms*. . . . To identify a ranking for the query feedback terms, *the information retrieval system determines* a conceptual proximity between the focal nodes and the nodes that represent the query feedback terms, and ranks the query feedback terms from a first term closest in conceptual proximity to the focal nodes to a last term furthest in conceptual proximity from the focal nodes. The *query feedback terms are then displayed to the user* in the order ranked. (emphasis added)

As shown from the quote and figure 3, the user is not the one generating the feedback to input into the system, it is the system giving feedback about the user's query back to the user.

Menczer

Examiner has cited Filippo Menczer et al., *Evaluating Topic-Driven Web Crawlers* (2001) (*hereinafter* Menczer) as a referenced document. Understanding the Menczer article is important in assessing its relevance to an embodiment of the present invention and the proper points of comparison. First, the article sets out to "explore three novel approaches for assessing and comparing topic driven crawlers"—however neither of the three methods applies a semantic approach based on subject or trade terminology as an embodiment of the present invention does.

Second, the article "appl[ies] this evaluation framework to compare three types of crawlers" — this objective fails, however, as the authors seem to confuse "Crawler" and "Ranking" in as much as they claim to be evaluating the crawlers' ability to differentiate between different topics they actually evaluate the ranking-mechanisms of the search facilities in question.

As a point of comparison, Menczer specifies a system used to rank documents already harvested by a crawler according to relevance for a specific topic. The system is used to compare different crawler and ranking strategies to see which are best at finding documents relevant for a specific topic. This system does not filter documents according to subject/topic.

The first component of a search engine is the mechanism designed to travel networked information resources — the "crawler." The crawler is what differentiates search engines from other search facilities. The crawling process of General Purpose Search Engines will consider all information relevant, whereas the crawling process of an embodiment of the present invention, a Subject Specific Search Engine, will not as it will only consider information relating to the specific subject, e.g. Law or Medicine, relevant.

The second component is the Data Storage or the Index, this is where all the information retrieved by the crawler is stored and indexed and made searchable to users (or searchers).

The third component is a ranking mechanism that will attempt rank the results to a searcher's query string in such a way that the most relevant results are listed first on the results list. This mechanism assesses the relative relevance of results to a query string—the ranking is thus a function of the query string. The ranking of results is independent and as such unrelated to the function of the crawler.

Thus, Menczer in failing to recognize the different search technologies also fails to recognize that they are not "assessing and comparing topic driven crawlers," e.g. Google which is a General Purpose Search Engine using PageRank as their ranking mechanism is not a "topic driven crawler" and neither are any of the others they compare.

Finally, the Menczer article fails to recognize the difference between different types of search facilities and between the different component of search engines by labeling all "Crawlers"—what they seem to refer to is any type of search facility irrespective of what kind of technology that produces the results. In essence Menczer operates with a black box (of unknown content technology wise) called the "Crawler," which covers the harvesting of data as well as the ranking of search results.

What they are in reality testing is the ranking mechanism of a specific search facility. Thus their goal is really to determine which ranking mechanism of the ones in question is the better at listing results relevant to the given topic first on their results lists.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 Hammer/Gable

On page 2 of the Action, Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 10, 26-32, 40, 41, 46-48, and 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer in view of Gable. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 is allowable

Claim 1, as amended, recites *inter alia*, "assigning a weight to each of said words, terms and expressions comprising the subject specific terminology of the lexicon." The term "lexicon" has different meanings in Hammer and in claim 1. Hammer uses only a simple keyword filtering as opposed to the more semantic approach in an embodiment of the claimed invention. Hammer does not teach or disclose using "terms" and "expressions."

Furthermore, the combination of Hammer and Gable fails to teach or suggest "assigning a weight to each of said words, terms, and expressions" as stated in amended claim 1. Nor is this element inherent in Hammer or Gable. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over any combination of Hammer and Gable under § 103.

Dependent claims 26, 40, and 41 are allowable

Dependent claims 26, 40, and 41 depend, directly or indirectly, from patentable claim 1 and thus inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1 while further defining or adding elements. Therefore, claims 26, 40, and 41 are also patentable over any combination of Hammer and Gable under §103 for at least the reasons given above for patentable claim 1.

The term "smart" in claim 46 cannot change over time

On page 6 of the Action, Examiner rejects claim 46 in part because "the term 'smart' is relative and may change with time." Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner that the term "smart crawler" may change over time. Applicant respectfully requests Examiner's attention to the Federal Circuit's decision in *Phillips v. AWH Corp.* as well as the section in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, entitled "'Plain Meaning' Refers to the Ordinary and Customary Meaning Given to the Term By Those of Ordinary Skill in the Art." § 2111.01(III) (8th ed. 2008, *hereinafter*, MPEP).

In *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, the Federal Circuit reaffirmed that "the claims do not stand alone . . . they are part of 'a fully integrated written instrument' consisting principally of a specification that concludes with the claims." 75 USPQ2d 1321, 1327 (quoting *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 978). "For that reason," the Court continued, "claims 'must be read in view of the specification, of which they are a part." *Id.* (quoting *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 978). "Words of a claim 'are generally given their ordinary and customary meaning.'" *Id.* at 1326 (quoting *Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582). The Court clarifies that the "ordinary and customary meaning of a claim term is the meaning that the term would have to a person of ordinary skill in the art in question ***at the time of the invention***, i.e., ***as of the effective filing date of the patent application***." *Id.* (emphasis added). Thus, claim terms will not change over time, as the terms must be given a meaning consistent with that at the time of filing the patent application.

Here, the term "smart crawler" is used in the specification of the patent application, including the claims. It is clear from both the Federal Circuit's opinions and the MPEP § 2111.01(III), claim terms such as "smart crawler" used in the patent application, will be given the meaning as is understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the effective filing

date. Thus, the claim term "smart crawler" as used in the patent application, is not relative and will not change over time.

Claim 46 also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1

Claim 46 was objected to on the same grounds as claim 1. Claim 46, as amended, recites *inter alia*, "assigning a weight to each of said words, terms and expressions comprising the subject specific terminology of the lexicon." The term "lexicon" has different meanings in Hammer and in claim 1. Hammer uses only a simple keyword filtering as opposed to the more semantic approach in an embodiment of the claimed invention. Hammer does not teach or disclose using "terms" and "expressions."

Furthermore, the combination of Hammer and Gable fails to teach or suggest "assigning a weight to each of said words, terms, and expressions" as stated in amended claim 46. Nor is this element inherent in Hammer or Gable. Therefore, claim 46 is patentable over any combination of Hammer and Gable under § 103.

Claims 1 and 46 are allowable over Hammer/Gable/Burrows

Claims 1 and 46, as amended, recite claim language similar to previously rejected dependent claims 5-7 and 9. Claims 5-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer in view of Gable and further in view of Burrows. Applicant respectfully contends that claims 1 and 46 are patentable over any combination of Hammer, Gable, or Burrows.

Claim 1 and claim 46, as amended, recite *inter alia*, "decomposing said objects into one or more said components." Breaking up pages into "components" is not the same as to separate it into "words" as taught by Burrows. As described in claims 1 and 46, "components" include elements of the page structure.

When looking at a web page, one instantly recognizes that the page is a collage (or "mash up") of different parts like menus, adverts, news, content, etc. This structured presentation can be achieved in many different ways, with HTML-structures like DHTML, frames, tables and styles, for example. One embodiment of the invention is able to break up the pages into these component parts and analyze each part separately. The reason for doing this is that only subject specific matter in the contents part should be prioritized, whereas matter like adverts should not be prioritized seen from an academic referencing point of view.

Understanding this, it is clear that Burrows teachings are substantially different from the way an exemplary embodiment of this invention works and thus irrelevant in this respect.

Additionally, claims 1 and 46 recite, *inter alia*, "assigning a weight to each of said words, terms and expressions comprising the subject specific terminology of the lexicon." This is not the same weight being assigned in Burrows. Burrows (column 2, lines 50-60, column 26, lines 34-49 and column 27, lines 1-17) uses the assigning of weights to keywords to rank already indexed pages and **not** to selectively store pages. Burrows does not teach or suggest using the same technology to selectively store pages.

Furthermore, the technology of focusing on keywords alone (Hammer, page 6, column 2 paragraph 1, and Burrows, column 26, lines 3-29 and column 27, lines 1-17) does not make it possible to achieve the same level of subject relevance as described in an embodiment of the present invention, and it is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, how to improve Burrows' method with a more complex algorithm.

Gable (column 8, lines 3-29), on the other hand, looks at a way to use statistics from already indexed pages to improve search/query terms for future searches/queries or to perform data mining by correlating information on the indexed pages. Gable focuses on saving query expressions with the intent to query other sources of information, i.e. search engines whereas an embodiment of the present invention stores indexed pages already filtered from the source. The teachings of Gable in this respect are not relevant and that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to apply Gable's teachings to a harvester.

The combination of Hammer, Gable, and Burrows, does not teach or suggest all elements of claims 1 and 46. Therefore, claims 1 and 46 are patentable over any combination of Hammer, Gable, and Burrows under § 103.

Dependent claims 47 and 48 are allowable

Dependent claims 47 and 48 depend, directly or indirectly, from patentable claim 46 and thus inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 46 while further defining or adding elements. Therefore, claims 47 and 48 are also patentable over the combination of Hammer and Gable under §103.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 Hammer/Gable/Conklin

Claims 3, 25, 45, 50, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer in view of Gable and further in view Conklin. Examiner admits that Hammer in view of Gable does not teach all elements of claims 3, 25, 45, 50, and 53. However, Examiner contends that Hammer combined with Conklin teaches presenting website content to a human editor for approval or disapproval. Claims 3, 25, 45, and 53 have been canceled. However, applicant respectfully disagrees that the combination of Hammer, Gable, and Conklin renders claim 50 unpatentable.

No combination of Hammer, Gable, and Conklin renders obvious claim 50

No combination of Hammer, Gable, and Conklin discloses or renders obvious "device for presenting said subject specific relevant objects received from the smart crawler to a human editor via the human-computer interface," as recited by amended claim 50. As Conklin does not specify any filtering processes, Conklin cannot be combined with Hammer and Gable in any obvious way to include all elements of claim 50.

Furthermore, the human input mentioned in Conklin (column 5, lines 21-25) is not used in the feedback system; they specify that the knowledge base may contain information based on manual selection by a linguist. This seems to mean that a linguist may create part of the knowledge base, based on his or her professional knowledge, not by selecting entries from a list presented by the system.

Thus, no combination of Hammer, Gable, or Conklin teaches or suggests all elements of claim 50. Therefore, claim 50 is patentable over the combination of Hammer, Gable, and Conklin under § 103.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 Hammer/Gable/Burrows

Claims 5-9, 11-13, 15-19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer in view of Gable and further in view of Burrows. Claims 5-7, 9, 11-13, 15-19, and 21-23 are canceled. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees that any combination of Hammer, Gable, or Burrows teaches or suggests all elements of claim 8.

Dependent claim 8 depends directly from patentable claim 1 and thus inherits the patentable subject matter of claim 1 while further defining or adding elements. Therefore, claim 8 is

patentable over the combination of Hammer, Gable, and Burrows under §103 for at least the reasons given above for patentable claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 Hammer/Gable/Menczer

Claims 33-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer in view of Gable and further in view of Menczer. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Dependent claims 33-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from patentable claim 1 and thus inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1 while further defining or adding elements. Therefore, claims 33-39 are also patentable over the combination of Hammer, Gable, and Menczer under §103 for at least the reasons given above for patentable claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 Hammer/Gable/Conklin

On page 13 of the Action, claims 42-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammer in view of Gable and further in view of Conklin. On page 14 of the Action, Examiner suggested that Conklin "teaches monitoring a depth for each link, the depth being a reflection of relevance." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

No reasonable combination of Conklin, Hammer, and Gable discloses or renders obvious "monitoring a depth for each said link, the depth being a reflection of relevance to said predefined particular subject" as recited in claim 42. Conklin uses the term "depth cut-off" to specify which pages should be considered the focal point of the current "topic" for the purpose of ranking partly by using their *ontological* distance (depth). In Conklin the term depth has no relation to links and the number of links that has to be traversed to reach a certain page, and thus the Conklin usage of "depth" does not relate to the usage of "depth" in claim 42, where depth is used to signify how "far away" in terms of subject-irrelevant intermediate sites a certain site is, see figure 7 below (demonstrating an exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention). As the meaning and significance of the word "depth" in Conklin and claim 42 are completely different, Conklin and Hammer does not disclose or render obvious all elements of claim 42.

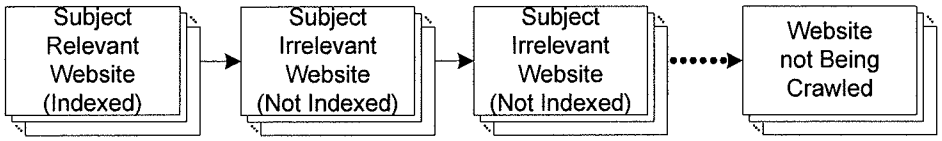

Figure 7: Website not Being Indexed as Depth Value is too High (Linear View)

Figure 7 above describes how the claimed invention stops traversing a series of links after it has met a specific number of web sites that are irrelevant to the current subject as a subject relevant site points to an irrelevant site, which again points to another irrelevant site. After a given number of subject irrelevant sites have been traversed (depth too high), the claimed invention considers that "branch" futile and stops following those links. Figure 8 below illustrates the same situation in a tree view where the red/grey website is not crawled by the claimed invention as its distance (i.e. depth) from a relevant website (black) is too far.

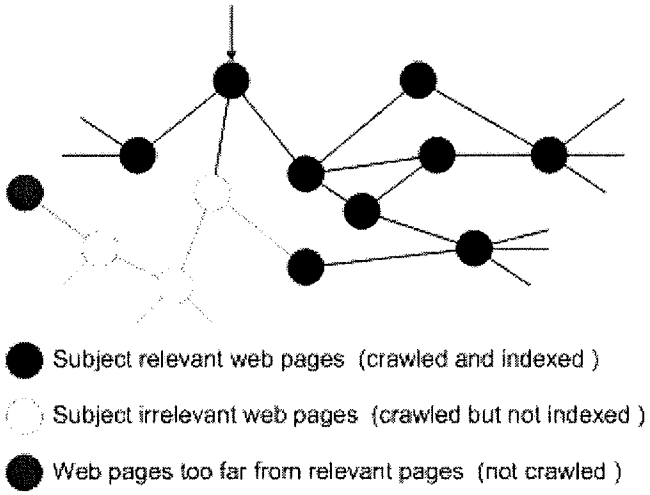

Figure 8: Website not Being Indexed as Depth Value is too High (Tree View)

As stated above, Conklin do not use the term "depth" in the same sense as the claimed invention. In the context of Conklin column 9, lines 20-36, the depth cut-off weight is based on the ontological distance of words in their database and is used to select focal points for presentation, not for selection of pages to be indexed. This means that the teachings of Conklin are not relevant with respect to the claim 42 and thus that a modification of Hammer by the teachings of Conklin is non-

obvious. Therefore, claim 42 is patentable over the combination of Hammer and Conklin under §103.

Dependent claims 43-44 depend, directly or indirectly, from patentable claim 42 and thus inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 42 while further defining or adding elements. Therefore, claims 42-44 are also patentable over the combination of Hammer, Gable, and Conklin under §103.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103 Conklin/Hammer

Claims 60 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conklin in view of Hammer. Claim 60 is canceled.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

In view of the above amendments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/13/2009

By _____

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